

## Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 PER-01 /021 W  
----- 051257

R 241215Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2681

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 7184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IR, ASEC, AFSP, ALOW

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN TEHRAN: REQUEST FOR POST  
DIFFERENTIAL

REFS:(A) TEHRAN 6444;(B) TEHRAN 6937

SUMMARY: TERRORIST MURDER OF THREE MEMBERS OF MISSION DURING PAST THREE MONTHS MAKES CLEAR THAT FANATICAL ANTI-GOI ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED IMPRESSIVE LEVEL OF CAPABILITY AND THAT OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE A PRIMARY TARGET. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR ALL STAFF. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT PERSISTING DANGERS FOR OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAVE CREATED SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEM WHICH COULD HAVE EFFECT ON FUTURE WILLINGNESS OF EMPLOYEES TO ACCEPT OR EXTEND ASSIGNMENT IN TEHRAN. CHANGED SECURITY SITUATION SHOULD BE VIEWED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS IN TEHRAN. WE RECOMMEND THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF POST DIFFERENTIAL BE CONSIDERED AS MATTER OF PRIORITY BY DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBUSH MURDERS OF TWO AMERICAN AND ONE IRANIAN STAFF MEMBER OF THIS MISSION, IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS AND THREATS AGAINST OUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY, HAVE DAMAGED STAFF MORALE IN TEHRAN. EMBASSY IS PREPARING FORM DSP-36 TO JUSTIFY POST DIFFERENTIAL, BUT BELIEVE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO GIVE PRIOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION TO OUR SITUATION.

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2. DURING PAST FIVE YEARS FREQUENCY AND SERIOUSNESS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED. FOLLOWING INCIDENTS COMPRISE MAJOR ATTACKS ON AMERICAN PERSONNEL:  
A. NOVEMBER 1970. ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING/MURDER OF

AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR BY AUTOMOBILE AMBUSH.

B. MAY 31, 1972. BOMBING OF AUTOMOBILE OF GENERAL PRICE, CHIEF, MAAG AIR FORCE SECTION, RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY TO HIM AND DEATH TO TWO BYSTANDERS.

C. MAY 31, 1972. BOMB THROWN OVER EMBASSY WALL; NO INJURIES. FIVE OTHER BOMBS EXPLODED AT AMERICAN-ASSOCIATED SITES IN TEHRAN WITHOUT INJURIES.

D. JUNE 1973. ASSASSINATION OF TLC HAWKINS, ARMISH/MAAG, WHILE WAITING FOR TRANSPORTATION TO WORK.

EM APRIL 1974. BOMB PLACED UNDER UNOCCUPIED AUTOMOBILE OF TSGT HIGH IN FRONT OF HIS HOME.

F. OCTOBER 1974. BOMBS PLACED ON PREMISES OF THREE AMERICAN-RELATED FIRMS PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TEHRAN.

G. FEBRUARY AND DECEMBER 1974. STUDNETS BROKE WINDOWS AT TEHRAN IRAN-AMERICA SOCIETY.

H. MAY 1975. AMBUSH ASSASSINATION OF MAAG COLONELS SHAFFER AND TURNER.

I. JUNE 1975. BOMB DAMAGED IRAN-AMERICA FACILITIES IN MASHAD.

J. JULY 1975. AMBUSH ASSASSINATION OF EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE HOSNAN. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS KILLING WAS RESULT OF TERRORIST MISTAKE AND AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL WAS INTENDED TARGET.

3. DURING THIS PERIOD WE HAVE ALSO RECORDED SEVEN MURDERS OF IRANIAN SECURITY OFFICERS NAD ELEVEN BOMBINGS OF IRANIAN INSTALLATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN AN APPARENT DECISION BY TERRORIST GROUPS TO CONCENTRATE ON GOI SECURITY FORCES AND AMERICANS WHO ARE DEEMED TO BE CHIEF EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR REGIME.

4. FOLLOWING SHAFFER/TURNER MURDERS ON MAY 21 EMBASSY RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM PERSONS WHO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY AND THREATENED TO KILL SEVEN OTHER AMERICANS IN RETALIATION FOR DEATH OF NINE IRANIAN TERRORISTS AT HANDS OF IRANIAN POLICE. SINCE MAY, EMBASSY AND ARMISH/MAAG HAVE REGISTERED OVER 300 POSSIBLE THREATS TO OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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INVESTIGATED ABOUT FIFTY INCIDENTS, THOUGHT TO BE THREATENED ATTACKS BY TERRORISTS GROUPS. IN SOME TEN CASES WE HAVE FELT THAT A BONA FIDE ACT OF TERRORISM WAS BLOCKED OR OTHERWISE FAILED IN ITS OBJECTIVE.

5. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM REFTELS OF NEW PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES EMBASSY HAS TAKEN AND IS PLANNING TO PROTECT ITS EMPLOYEES. WHILE THESE MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN DETERRING ATTACK OR REDUCING POSSIBILITY OF TERRORIST SUCCESS, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO FOOLPROOF PROTECTION FOR OUR EMPLOYEES. RECENT THREE MURDERS TESTIFY TO SOPHISTICATION AND DARING OF TERRORISTS. HOSNAN KILLING OCCURRED AT MID-DAY IN BUSY STREET IN CENTER OF CITY. ALTHOUGH IRANIAN OFFICIALS ARE

GIVING US GENEROUS COOPERATION, THEIR CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM IS VERY LIMITED. NO ARRESTS OF CONFIRMED SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN CONNECTION WITH SHAFFER, TURNER OR HOSNAN MURDERS. THESE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO ALL OF OUR STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND HAVE HAD SERIOUS IMPACT ON MORALE.

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ACTION OPR-02

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R 241215Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 7184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IR, ASEC, AFSP, ALOW

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN TEHRAN: REQUEST FOR POST  
DIFFERENTIAL

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 6444;(B) TEHRAN 6937

6. WE BELIEVE SITUATION OF OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ANY OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POST. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, AT NO OTHER POST ARE AMERICANS APPARENTLY THE ONLY FOREIGN TARGET OF TERRORISTS ACTIVITY. (A BOMB PLACE ON BRITISH COUNCIL PREMISES AT MASHAD THIS WEEK HAS BEEN ONLY RECENT EXCEPTION TO TERRORISTS TARGETING ON US AND GOI SECURITY OFFICERS.) WE BELIEVE THAT AT NO OTHER POST, INCLUDING BUENOS AIRES AND BEIRUT WHERE TERRORISM HAS RECEIVED MORE PUBLICITY, HAVE FOUR MISSION PERSONNEL BEEN KILLED BY TERRORIST GROUPS DURING PAST TWO YEARS.

7. AS WE WILL DETAIL IN PRESENTATION OF FORM DSP-36, LIFE IN TEHRAN IS NO LONGER THE PLEASANT EXPERIENCE IT WAS FOR OUR PEOPLE DURING PAST YEARS. IRAN'S ECONOMIC BOOM HAS GENERATED STRONG INFLATION AND DRIVEN RENTS TO ABSURD LEVELS. ARRIVING PERSONNEL FIND THAT FOR FAMILY OF FOUR, RENTS GENERALLY BEGIN AT \$1,000 PER MONTH FOR BARELY ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATIONS. AS CONSEQUENCE OF THESE INFLATED VALUES AND LAG IN ALLOWANCES, OUR PERSONNEL ARE OFTEN REQUIRED TO TAKE SUB-STANDARD HOUSING WHICH IS POORLY MAINTAINED AND CONSTANT SOURCE OF EMPLOYEE FRUSTRATION AND DISCOMFORT. OTHER SERIOUS IRRITANT IN TEHRAN IS INCREASINGLY CHAOTIC TRAFFIC SITUATION. DURING PAST  
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THREE YEARS TRAVEL TIME TO AND FROM WORK FOR MOST EMPLOYEES HAS DOUBLED. REGULAR, HARROWING EXPERIENCES WITH RECKLESS AND UNDISCIPLINED IRANIAN DRIVERS WEAR DOWN NERVES OF OUR STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE LESSER PROBLEMS DERIVING FROM POLLUTION, PETTY THIEVERY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL CONFLICTS.

8. PICTURE IS NOT ENTIRELY BLEAK, OF COURSE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING NEGATIVE ASPECTS. IRAN IS AN IMPORTANT AND EXCITING COUNTRY AFFORDING A CHALLENGING AND REWARDING WORK EXPERIENCE FOR MANY OF OUR STAFF. IT AFFORDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHOSE INTERESTS LIE IN ARCHEOLOYT, HOSTORY AND CRAFTS. ALTHOUGH RECREATION IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT AS COMPETITION FOR SPACES INCREASES, THERE ARE STILL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKIING, TENNIS AND CAMPING HERE.

9. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT TIME HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE CHANGED SITUATION IN TEHRAN WITH APPROPRIATE POST DIFFERENTIAL. (LOCAL AFSA CHAPTER HAS RECOMMENDED 20 PERCENT DIFFERENTIAL AND INITIATED THIS REQUEST.) TO FAIL TO ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY IN THIS MATTER WOULD, IN OUR OPINION, NOT REPRESENT FAIR TREATMENT OF TEHRAN EMPLOYEES AND WOULD MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO INDUCE HIGH-QUALITY PERSONNEL TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT OR EXTENSIONS HERE. HELMS

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